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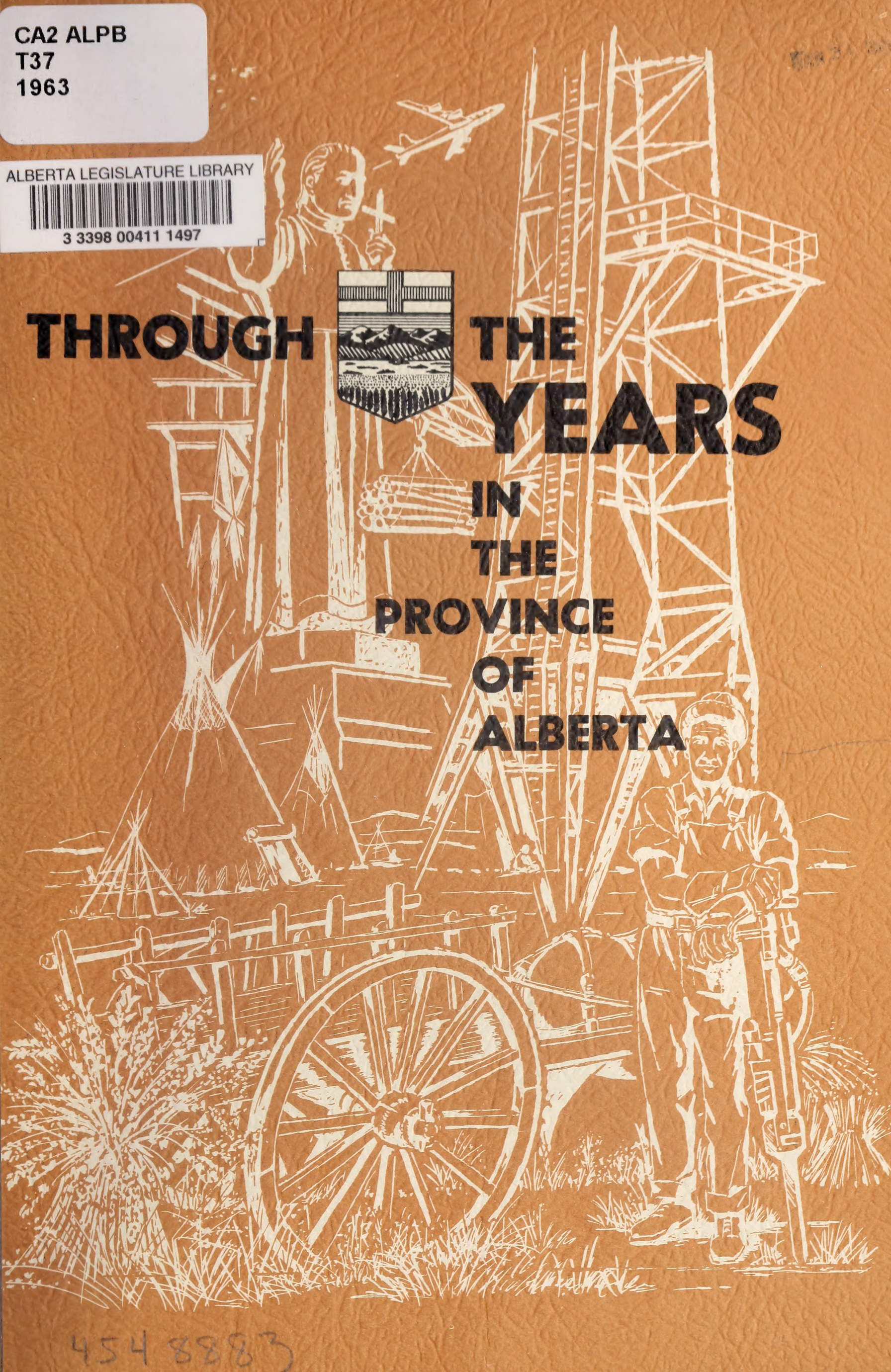
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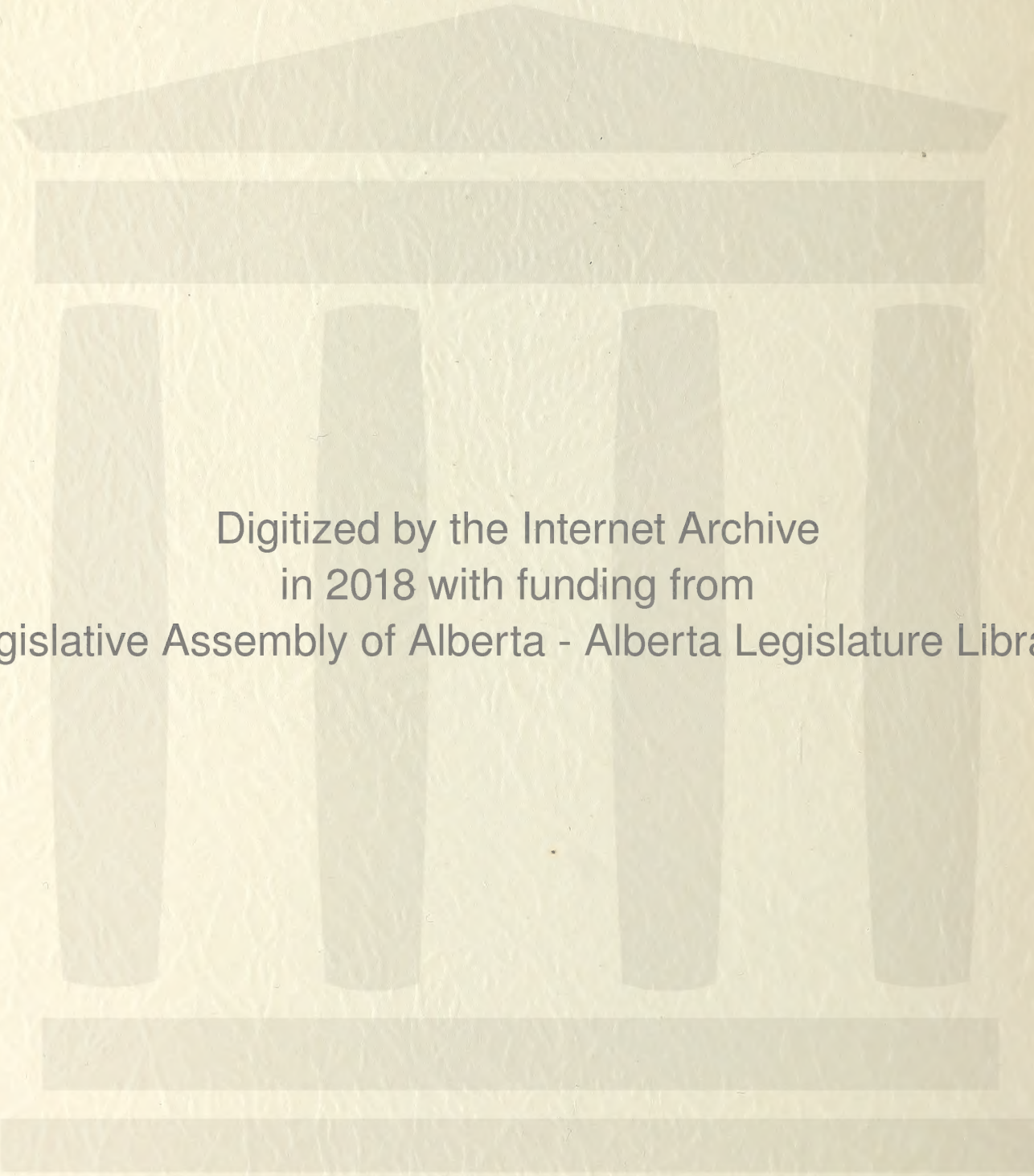
**THE  
YEARS**

**IN  
THE  
PROVINCE  
OF  
ALBERTA**



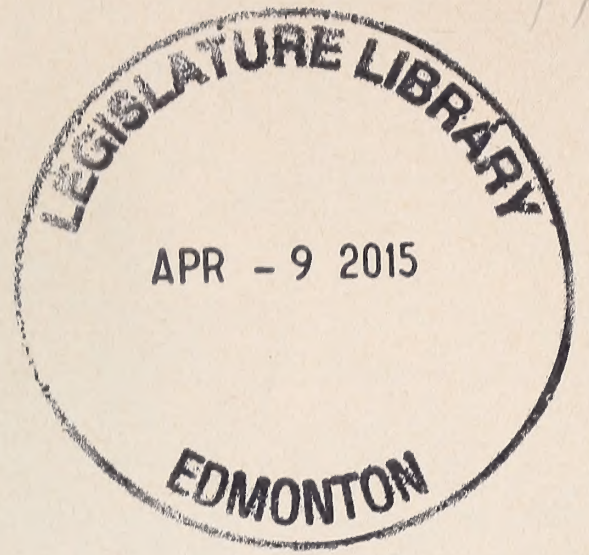
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# ALBERTA THROUGH THE YEARS

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H. E. MARTIN, Director

HON. A. R. PATRICK,  
Minister

J. E. OBERHOLTZER  
Deputy Minister





*Old buildings of Fort Edmonton (foreground) and Legislative Buildings under construction about 1910.*

“**I** SEE the determination of a new province. I see everywhere the calm resolution, courage and enthusiasm to face all difficulties, to settle all the problems which belong to a new province.”

These thoughts expressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, at ceremonies inaugurating Alberta as a province in 1905, are indicative of the spirit of Albertans. Through the years the people of the province have shown determination, resolution, courage and enthusiasm in working together to mold their province into the industrial and agricultural power it is today.

Alberta's inauguration in 1905 followed a tremendous influx of settlers in the previous decade, making local autonomy feasible. Previously, western Canada had been part of the North-West Territories and was originally controlled under the charter of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The province is bounded on the north by the Northwest Territories, the

south by the International Boundary, on the east by Saskatchewan, and on the west by British Columbia. It totals 255,285 square miles of which 6,976 square miles are water.

This, the most westerly of the three Prairie Provinces, also has the widest variety of scenery, geography and climate. From the south and east, the vast treeless sea of the great plains breaks itself against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and is lost in the wooded northern half of the province, only to reappear on a reduced scale in the Peace River country around Grande Prairie. Myriad lakes are scattered across the province, ranging from the serenely beautiful Lake Louise sheltered in the high mountains, to the vast reaches of the mighty Lake Athabasca in the far north east, with a multitude of smaller ones between.

The flora and fauna range from Alpine and sub-alpine types found in the mountain areas, to the specialized types peculiar to the arid "badlands" areas or the dry open prairies.



The high rugged backbone of the Great Divide not only separates Alberta geographically and climatically from the west coast, but also economically. The location of the lower mountain passes in the southern half of the province helped speed its penetration and development in the early days. The southern area received the first railroad and telegraph lines which were followed by the first great wave of homesteading settlers who settled along the railroad. This pattern has now changed since the building of new highways and modern communications, but was for a long time one of the shaping factors in the development of the province.

Alberta's written history is comparatively short, but fossilized remains first discovered in the badlands area prove that the great dinosaurs once roamed here. More recently, tribes of Indian hunters led a fairly settled existence, dependent upon the buffalo. These they hunted by surrounding the animal on foot or cunningly driving it into traps or over high cliffs.

The horse arrived on the northern plains sometime during the early 1700's, brought from the south by Indian tribes who originally had captured the animals from the Spanish in the southwestern part of what is now the United States. Almost overnight, the Plains Indian became a wide-ranging hunter, following the



*Two outstanding missionaries are seen in this 1886 photo with chiefs of the Cree and Stoney nations. At left, seated is Rev. John McDougall, the famous Methodist missionary; at right rear is Rev. R. V. Steinhauer, a full-blooded Indian who worked as missionary among the Crees. At front, right is Jonas Big Stoney, and in the center is Pakan, noted Head Chief of the Cree nation. At rear, left, is Samson, Chief of the Crees.*

*Below: Blood Indians camp near the Belly Buttes in southern Alberta. These Indians are part of the great Blackfeet Nation which ruled the Alberta prairies until 1880.*







*The early ranchers of southern Alberta brought thousands of head of cattle overland from the United States to establish a flourishing business on the rolling prairies. Here is a group of ranchers with their cattle near Calgary in the middle 1880's.*

wandering buffalo herds on their long migrations and making war on distant tribes. The tribes of the Blackfoot nation were probably the first in Alberta to obtain horses and quickly became the most powerful tribe in the northern plains, ranging far to the south into Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas. From the advent of the horse until the 1880's when the last

*Colin Fraser, a free trader, sorts \$35,000 worth of furs purchased from the Indians of northern Alberta in the 1890's.*



of the great buffalo herds were decimated, hunting was the main form of livelihood in Alberta and trading for furs and hides the main occupation of the area's few white residents.

The first white man to visit what is now the province of Alberta was Anthony Henday, a Hudson's Bay Company employee who travelled west from the shores of Hudson Bay in an attempt to lure the Indians east to trade their valuable furs at the company's coastal trading posts. His attempt was unsuccessful as the Indians saw no reason to make the arduous journey to Hudson's Bay for a few of the white man's trinkets and utensils. Nor did the Blackfoot Indians show much interest in the furs of small and valuable mammals. Consequently the fur companies did very little business with them until after the 1790's when they built forts on the North Saskatchewan River on the edge of Blackfoot country. The main articles traded by these tribes were horses, pemmican, wolf and buffalo robes.

The principal fur traders in the area of that period were a group of free traders known as the Pedlars who did not recognize the Hudson's Bay Company's claims to all trading rights in the vast inland area and who passed





*The "North West" was one of the most famous of the many stern wheeled riverboats that once plied the rivers of Alberta, carrying supplies and passengers to the pioneer settlements strung along the banks of the great waterways. This picture was taken in 1896, just three years before the steamer went adrift and foundered on the piers of the Low Level Bridge in Edmonton.*

freely among the tribes of the interior, trading with the Indians on their own ground. The Pedlars eventually formed themselves into the North West Company and provided such organized competition that the Hudson's Bay Company finally adopted the same strategy and began opening inland posts along the great rivers, usually a short step behind the North Westers. Post after post was built into the new frontier until finally in 1778 Peter Bond established a wintering post for the North Westers not far from what is now Fort Chipewyan.

For many years the two companies were in bitter competition, sometimes to the point of open warfare. The struggle ended in 1821, with their amalgamation under the name of the Hudson's Bay Company.

*A winter supply of furs was loaded on these ox-carts in the 1890's to be hauled to the Hudson's Bay Co. post at Edmonton. In many sections of Alberta the trails through muskegs would permit only light carts to pass, but in the south huge ox-trains and mule teams were used to transport goods.*

For four decades this company ruled the west, under a charter granted in 1670. In 1869, Rupert's Land, the area now made up of Alberta, Saskatchewan and adjacent lands, was sold to the Canadian Government for \$1,350,000.

Following the sale, the Canadian west became open territory. Whiskey traders from the United States moved into the southern parts of Alberta, setting up a series of illegal trading forts. Among the better known forts were Whoop-up, Kipp, Slideout, Standoff, Spitzee Post and Kanouse's Post.

In the summer of 1874 forces of scarlet-coated North-West Mounted Police set out from Manitoba to suppress this illegal trading and to bring law and order to the western plains.







*A three horse team pulls an old binder during farming operations near Calgary in 1885. Even at that early date note the importance of farming was beginning to overshadow that of the large scale ranches in the southern part of the provinces.*

Both objectives were peacefully attained. The American traders either returned to Montana or became law abiding pioneers, while the Indians happily greeted their redcoated protectors. Treaties providing for the future livelihood of the Indians were signed, the first with the Crees and Wood Stoneys in 1876. The famous Treaty Seven was signed the following year with the Blood, Peigan, North Blackfoot, Sarcee and Stoney Indians. Northern Alberta tribes were the last to sign; in 1899 they accepted Treaty Eight.

One of the first attempts to bring religion to inhabitants of the new land occurred in 1840 when Rev. Robert Terrill Rundle, a Methodist missionary arrived at Fort Edmonton. He was followed two years later by the first

Roman Catholic Missionary—Father Jean Thibault.

Then came such builders of the west as Rev. George McDougall and his son, Rev. John McDougall, Father Albert Lacombe, Father Emile Grouard, Rev. Thomas Woolsey, Father Emile Legal, Rev. John Maclean and Bishop Vital Grandin.

Representatives of other religious groups such as the Anglicans, Presbyterians and Baptists arrived in the latter part of the century and made their contribution to the religious needs of the early settlers.

The largest denomination today is the United Church of Canada, formed in 1925 by the union of all Methodists, many Presbyterians and most Congregationalists. Next in order are the



*Methods of threshing have changed over the years. At left an old steam engine is used by the hired gang, which often travelled with it as a complete threshing crew, going from farm to farm during the whole harvest season.*



*An oldtime prospector searches for gold in the North Saskatchewan River near Edmonton in 1890. The contraption used to extract the gold dust from the sand and gravel was called a "grizzly".*



Roman Catholic and the Anglican and Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). The eastern Orthodox communions are also well represented.

By the turn of the century, the population in what is now Alberta had increased to such an extent that the area could no longer be efficiently administered from the territorial capital at Regina. In February 1905, the Autonomy Bill was introduced into the House of Commons. It was passed on July 5 and approved by the Senate two weeks later. The official inauguration date was set for September 1.

Alberta's subsequent expansion was rapid. As in all pioneer areas, the early economy of the province was agricultural and farming continues to be one of Alberta's richest industries.

The first attempt to till the soil in Alberta was made in 1779 when Peter Pond planted a small garden near Lake Athabasca. By 1825, grain had been introduced to the Fort Vermilion

district, and small crops of barley were successfully grown.

But the real development of agriculture in Alberta was started by the Oblate Priests at missions at Lac la Biche, Lac Ste. Anne and St. Albert. The first wheat was grown at the Lac la Biche mission in 1855, and in the years that followed, root crops and grain were raised for local use and sale to trading posts.

Father Albert Lacombe made particularly important contributions to agriculture by introducing the plough to the Metis and Indians, and in 1863 he constructed the first grist mill in the province.

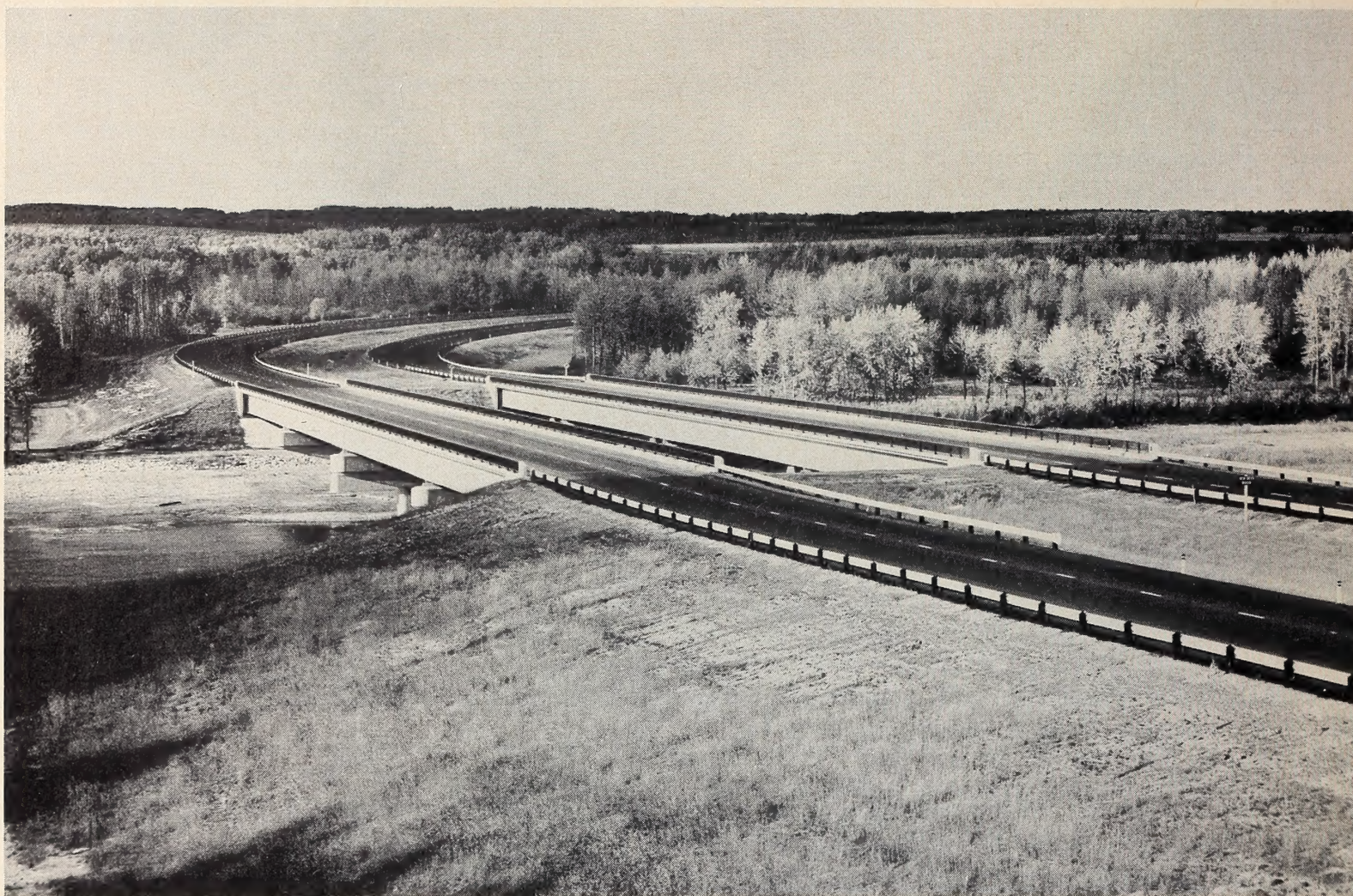
So successful were the priests that in 1873 they brought the first of many wheat prizes to Alberta; it was a sample from Fort Chipewyan entered in the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia.

One of the greatest agricultural contributions in the Peace River district was made by Rev. J. Gough Brick, an Anglican missionary who estab-

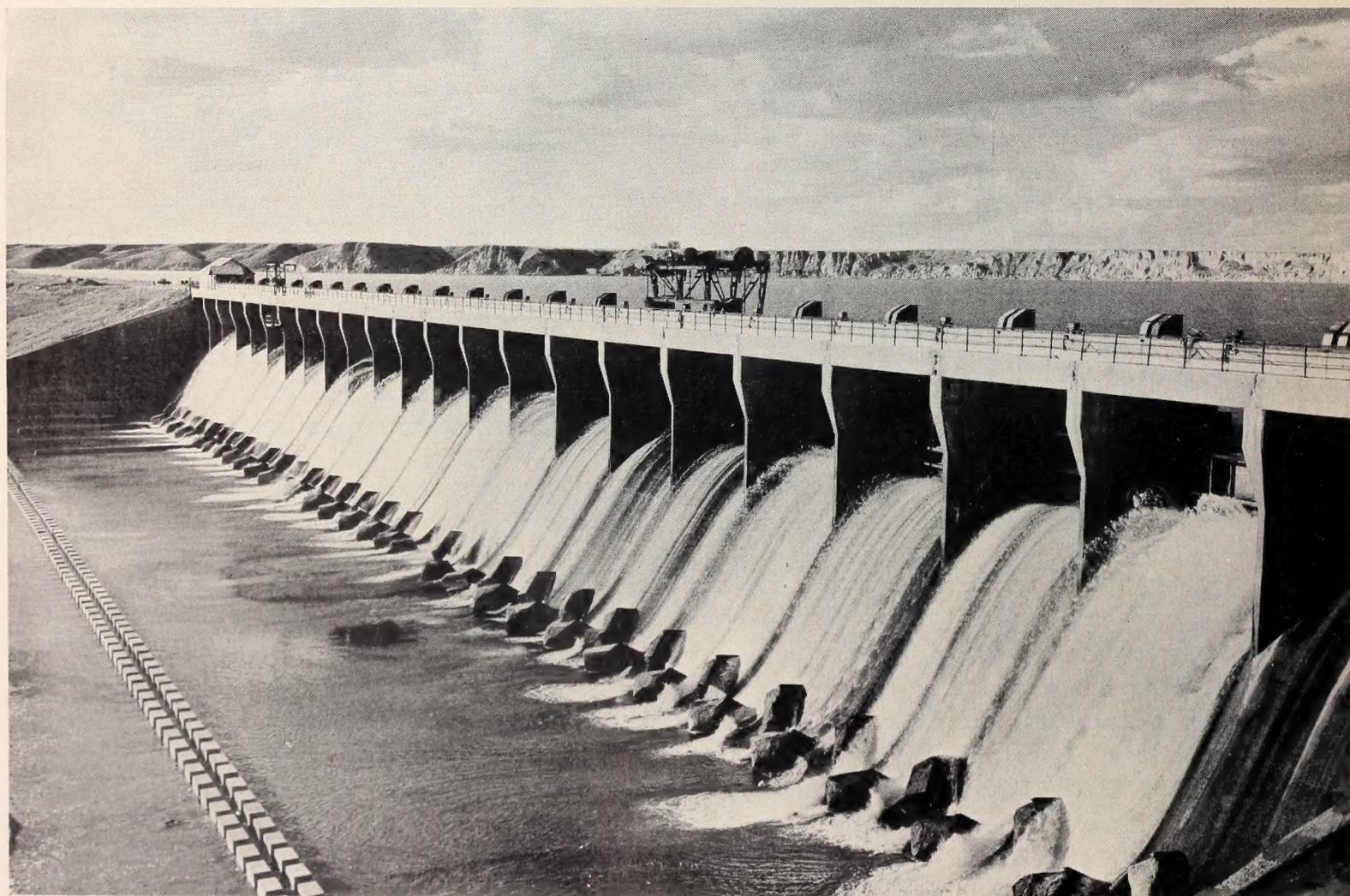
*From the early days when homesteads were hewn from the raw prairie and foothill country, farming has advanced rapidly until today such fine farmsteads as the one shown to the right equipped with the most modern equipment, are a commonplace.*







*Alberta's highways are among the best on the continent and provide lines of communication and transportation during all seasons of the year. This four lane divided highway bridging the Red Deer River between Edmonton and Calgary is typical of the future of all major traffic arteries.*



*Vast areas of southern Alberta naturally unsuitable for heavy cropping are being made to yield tremendous agricultural wealth through irrigation. Dams such as this store precious water supplies to be distributed as needed.*





*This modern gas processing plant set against the backdrop of the majestic Rocky Mountains typifies the recent spectacular upward growth in the importance of natural gas and its by-products to the provincial economy.*



*With almost half of the Dominion's known deposits of coal within its borders, the province provides large consumers with an economical source of fuel for the generation of electrical power. The trend in the province is for an increasing amount of its power to be generated in coal-fired thermal plants using strip-mined coal excavated by huge walking draglines such as this one located at Wabamun.*



lished the Shaftesbury mission in the early 1880's. Here he taught the Metis to grow grain and vegetables and in 1896 his sample of Red Fife wheat gained international prominence at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago.

The decade preceding the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885 was the brief heyday of the sternwheeled steamboats on the North and South Saskatchewan rivers. These top heavy looking flat bottomed boats plied the rivers, carrying passengers and cargo to supply the trading posts and settlements, from as early as 1874 when the "Northwest" called at Edmonton with a cargo of lumber, until around the turn of the century. They had proved their worth during the Riel rebellion of 1885 by transporting troops and supplies up and down the rivers. The steamer "Northcote" played an heroic part in the campaign; after being fortified with sandbags to protect the cabins, she acted as a gunboat and crashed the blockade which the rebels had placed across the river at Batoche in Saskatchewan. From about 1886 on, the newly constructed railroad began to

*Alberta's forests are managed on a continuing yield basis.*

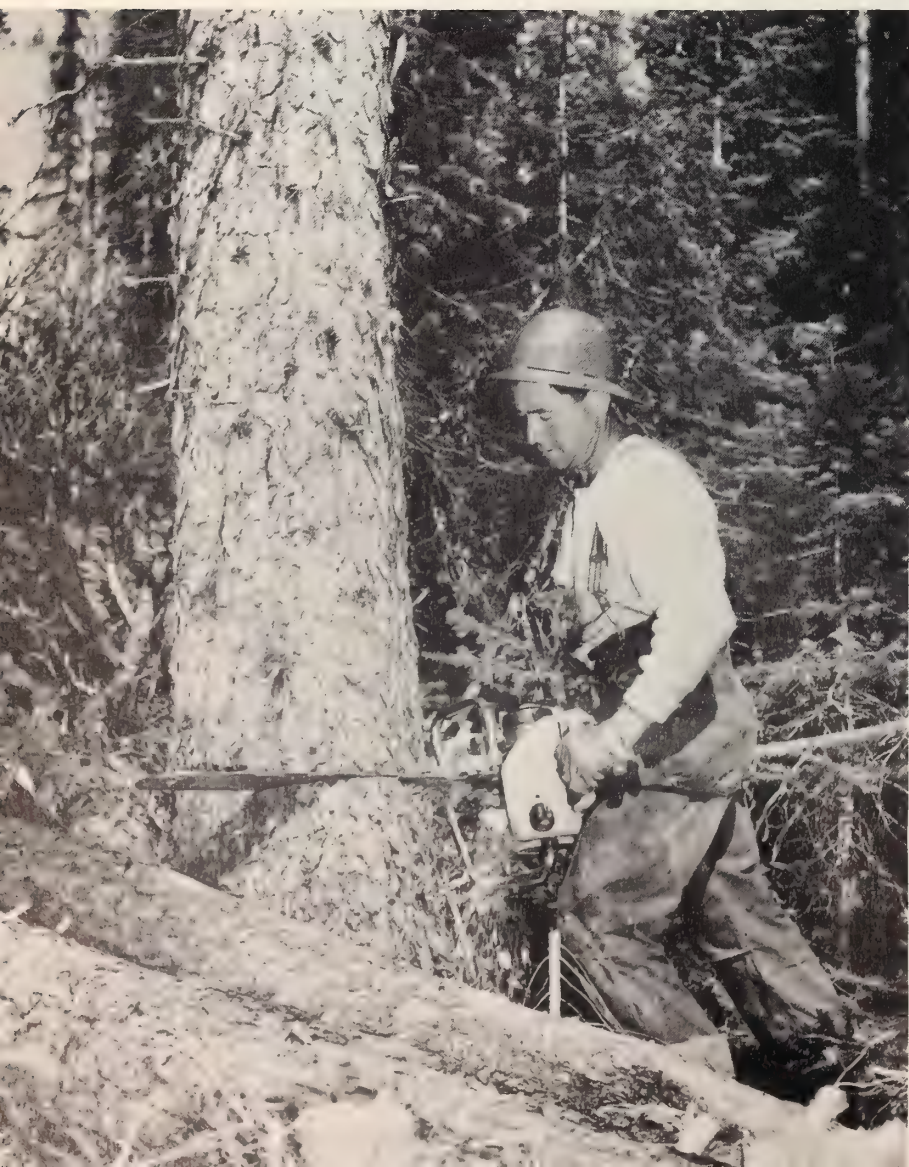


*Lumbering and harvesting and processing of Alberta's forest products yields millions of dollars of revenue each year. The province's forest areas are carefully administered on a program of replenishment to perpetuate the annual tree harvest.*

give the riverboats serious competition and eventually, their great flat bottomed hulls were drawn up on the banks for the last time and never launched again. Others fell prey to the treacherous currents and shifting sand bars of the shallow prairie rivers and were left to their fate after running aground.

The same Riel rebellion in which the steamboats saw such sterling service also brought about the formation of several militia troops in Alberta, notably the Rocky Mountain Rangers, Steele's Scouts, and the St. Albert Mounted Riflemen. The first two groups were formed in southern Alberta and were made up largely of cowboys from the surrounding ranches. Although they never fought any engagements with the rebels, the Rocky Mountain Rangers played an important part in preventing the uprising from spreading into a general conflagration which might have brought the whole native population of some 20,000 Indians into the fight on the side of Louis Riel.

They patrolled the 200-mile frontier with the United States between Lethbridge and the Cypress Hills and acted as a buffer between the 4,000 Indians in Alberta and their 3,000







*Alberta's comparatively young basic steel industry has assumed a new importance in the provincial economy with the discovery of extensive iron ore deposits in the Peace River country and almost simultaneously, the development by the Research Council of Alberta of a revolutionary new acid leaching process for purifying the ore which does away with the traditional blast furnace. The continued spectacular growth of gas and oil pipelines is helping to provide the needed stimulus for an expansion in steel production.*

cousins just south of the border in Montana. They also helped to protect the cattle herds of the large ranches from stray rebels, thieves and rustlers.

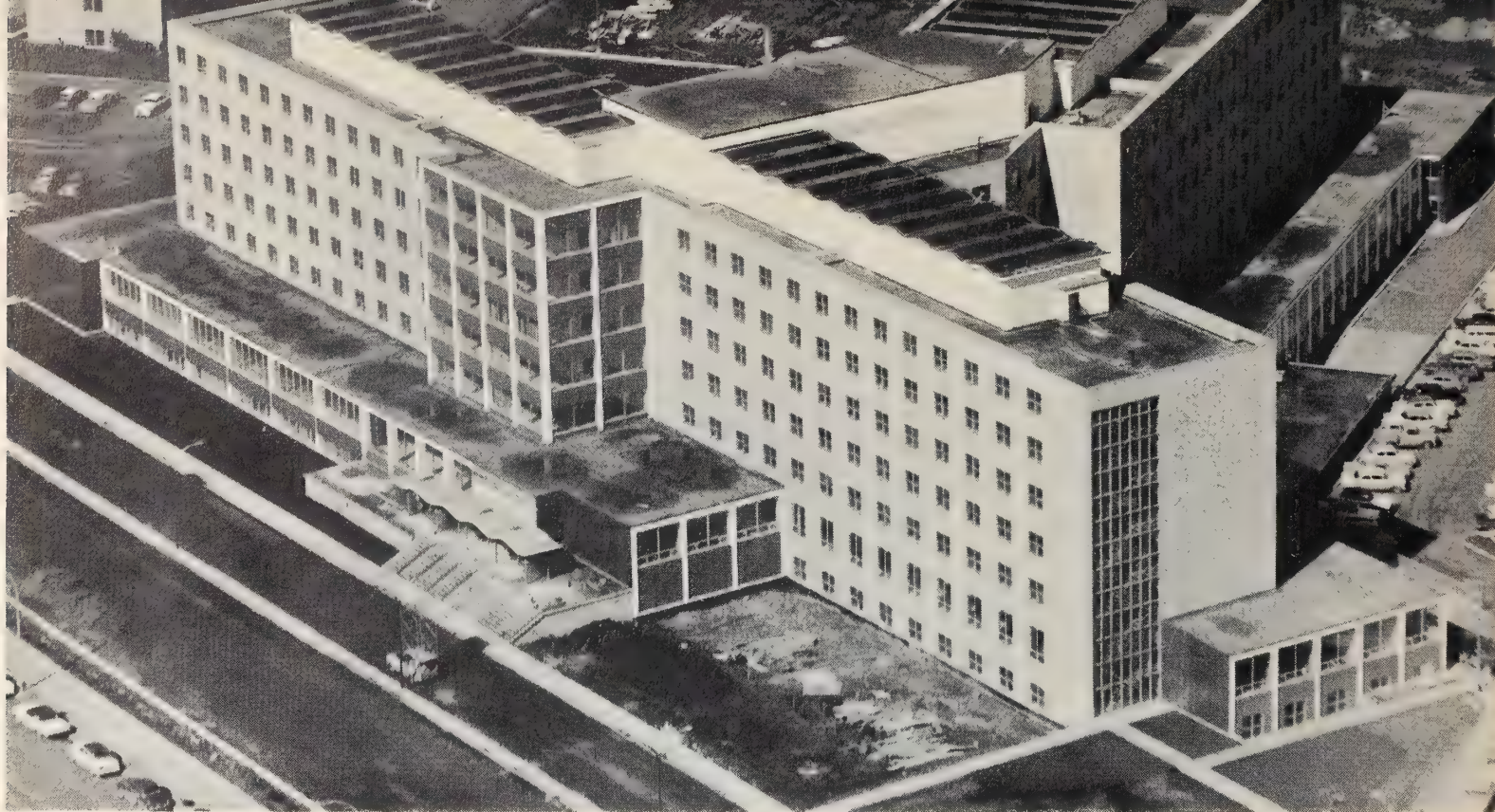
Steele's scouts protected the military convoy which was sent from Calgary to Edmonton to provide garrisons for the protection of the settlers, and later accompanied the expedition which moved down the North Saskatchewan river against Chief Big Bear and his Cree rebels at Frenchman's Butte. After preliminary skirmishes between the Scouts and the rebels at Pipestone Creek, the whole force attacked the rebels on May 28 and drove them from Frenchman's Butte after a stiff fight. Steele's Scouts saw further action at Loon Lake in the running fight which ensued with the Crees, but the Indians escaped and later dispersed. The St. Albert Mounted Riflemen also performed preventive duties which helped discourage the Alberta Indians from joining in a general Indian uprising. The Riel rebellion of 1885 coincided with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and was the last effort of the primitive peoples of western

Canada to preserve their ancient way of life and withstand the inexorable advance of the white man's civilization.

The rush for homesteads in Alberta beginning in the 1880's reached its peak a decade later with the construction of the Calgary and Edmonton railway, the connecting link to the CPR Trans-Canada line which reached Alberta in 1883. Thousands of farmers from eastern Canada, the United States and Europe arrived to carve out a new life in a new land.

This surge of immigration continues even now. Of the three prairie provinces Alberta has shown the greatest influx of settlers since 1931, and the interest in homesteading continues. Since 1939 almost four million acres have been filed on for homesteading purposes, and the year 1962 was an outstanding year with claims filed on 400,000 acres of land for homesteading. With 7,000,000 acres of land still available for homesteading, most of it in the Peace River district, it will be many more years yet before homesteading becomes a thing of the past in Alberta.





*Comprehensive and efficient hospital care at a reasonable cost is one of the many social services available to all Albertans. The Alberta Medical Plan recently inaugurated by the provincial government assures medical protection to all Albertans, regardless of income. New hospitals such as the one above in Edmonton are being built to ensure that residents of the province receive the highest standards of medical care and treatment at all times.*

The population of Alberta today is 1,400,000 with an average density of 5.5 persons per square mile. Regions of Alberta's densest population are centred around Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer. The least densely populated are the 150,000 square miles embracing the Fort McMurray and Peace River areas.

The last decennial census revealed that 45 percent of the population is of British Isles origin, 8 percent Ukrainian, 13.8 percent German, and 7.2 percent Scandinavian. Indians make up 2.1 percent and other national origins make up the remaining 25 percent.

When farming and ranching reached sizable proportions, allied industries began to appear. In 1883 a woollen mill was established by S. W. Shaw at Midnapore, where it remained in operation for over 40 years. In 1888 Ebenezer Healy established Alberta's first cheese factory at Springbank, west of Calgary. In 1890 Pat Burns started the first meat packing plant in Calgary—the nucleus of the multi-million dollar Burns and Co. Ltd. chain. Four years later a linen mill began operating at Stirling, and before the turn of the century creameries, flour mills, tanneries and carding mills dotted the landscape.

Agriculture's rise from a \$50,000,000 industry early in the century to one worth in excess of \$553 million in 1962 reveals a half-century of trans-

formation; a period when frontier Alberta changed to a modern land of mechanized farms and ranches.

It is estimated that Alberta contains more than 10 million acres of undeveloped potential agricultural land, or approximately half the entire Canadian acreage which could be utilized in future for farming. Practically all of Alberta's potential new farmland is located in the northern portion of the province.

Advances in irrigation in the last few decades have done much for agriculture. Major irrigation projects in southern Alberta have opened almost 1,000,000 acres of land to agricultural production, adding millions of dollars to the industry's annual value.

But the province is no less noted for livestock—the cattle ranges of the rolling foothills have long been legendary. Over 2½ million head of livestock roam extensive ranges giving sustenance to an annual \$244 million livestock industry. There are in addition nearly 300,000 milch cows.

The average farm or ranch home in the province is as modern as any city dwelling—mute evidence of the prosperity of agricultural life. Rural electrification, natural or propane gas, fine roads, and many other developments have brought all the luxuries of the city to rural homes.

The first attempt to develop Alberta's natural resources was made in 1869 when Nicholas Sheran, a gold



prospector, discovered a seam of coal near Fort Whoop-up, west of the present city of Lethbridge. Sheran immediately abandoned all thought of gold and successfully turned the seam into a profitable one-man industry. Most of the coal was exported to Montana.

As the population of Alberta increased, so did the demand for coal. Mining production rapidly increased; from 43,220 tons in 1886 to 340,275 tons by 1906. The industry continued to expand, serving both domestic and railway markets. It experienced its peak year in 1946 when 8,824,455 tons were produced.

Coal production in 1962 was just over the 2,000,000 tons mark as available markets continued to dwindle. The popularity of natural gas for domestic and industrial purposes, and the conversion of railway engines from steam to diesel were mainly responsible for the decline.

Coal mined in Alberta includes all classifications except anthracite which has not yet been discovered in commercial quantities.

The province's estimated reserves of nearly 48,000,000,000 tons of coal are the most extensive in Canada.

Alberta's forests have been a valuable asset to man since the days when natives used lodgepole pine for their teepee poles.

The province contains about 171,000 square miles of forested lands, 11 percent of Canada's total. Of this, 125,940 square miles is estimated to be productive timber area. New plants have been erected at Hinton, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, and Wabamum to manufacture pulp, plywood, wall-board and other products which utilize both timber and lower grade pulpwoods. The annual value of forestry products exceeds \$25,000,000.

Manufacturing, the value of which is growing at the rate of \$50 million each year, has replaced agriculture as the most important industry in Alberta. The province boasts 2,200 plants manufacturing such items as textiles, petrochemicals, clothing, cement and clay products, iron and steel products, transportation equipment, and of course, foods and beverages.

The value of these manufactured products exceeded \$970,000,000 in 1962.

The first commercial exploitation of

what has developed into a multi-million dollar petroleum industry was in 1886 when John "Kootenai" Brown collected oil seepages from the Waterton Lakes area to sell as machinery grease at \$1 per gallon.

The year 1890 brought gas to Medicine Hat, the centre Rudyard Kipling described as "The city with all Hell for a basement", from its gas field under the city. Provincial development was sporadic until 1914, the years of discovery of the Turner Valley oil field and Alberta's first oil boom, a fantastic period when people lined the streets to purchase oil stocks.

Activity slowed thereafter until 1924 when interest in Turner Valley was again revived with the discovery of a tremendous flow of natural gas and highly volatile naphtha gasoline. Operations in the field reached their peak in 1942 when the valley delivered more than 10,000,000 barrels, or a total of nearly 56 million barrels in the 28 years of the field's operation to that date. During this period a number of heavy crude fields were discovered, notably Lloydminster-Wainwright, but they added little to the overall Alberta picture.

Because it was fully exploited, Alberta's first major oil field began to wane. Within five years production was hardly half the 1942 output, and oil companies increased the search elsewhere for another field.

The first rewards of the new search appeared early in 1947 with the discovery of the Leduc field. Oil companies rushed into the area and within a year 43 major producers had been drilled. Reserves for the field within the one year were some 250,000,000 barrels.

In 1948, the Redwater field was discovered, with reserves estimated at 500,000,000 barrels. This was followed by discoveries at Golden Spike, Woodbend, throughout the Edmonton area and more recently in the Swan Hills.

Production soared with the new discoveries breaking previous production and value records. High prices for crude raised the value of production to nearly \$360 million in 1957 from the 1956 value of 353 million. This was in spite of production for the two years declining to 137.5 million barrels from 144 million barrels the previous year.



During 1961 all-time records of production and value were established when 165 million barrels valued at \$414 million were produced.

Natural gas production showed the most dramatic increase, more than doubling within a three year period. The 1958 total of 276 million mcf. was a 92 million mcf. increase over the previous year. By the end of 1962 production and value totals had skyrocketed to a record brecking 782 million mcf. valued at \$74 million. The growth of this phase of the petroleum industry is noticeable in the comparison of figures for 1954—\$1.9 million.

The province's proven gas reserves of 33 trillion cubic feet indicate Alberta will be a major supplier for many years.

To utilize the vast reserves of crude and natural gas ten refineries have been constructed in the province in various locations. The petro-chemical group has become one of the most important in Alberta with 35 processing plants operating.

These plants produce sulphur, plastics, cellulose, nickel products, asphalt building materials, fertilizer, and a

major portion of western Canada's refined oil and gasoline.

Alberta's proven oil reserves now stand at 3.7 billion barrels not taking into account the almost unknown quantity contained in the bituminous sands along the Athabasca River. The tar sands, believed to contain the world's largest single deposit of oil, are located in the McMurray area, 400 miles north of Edmonton. Oil bearing sand is found near the surface and is mined like a mineral. The oil content of these sands has been estimated at 250 billion barrels.

Many proposals have been put forward in the search for a method to separate the oil from the sands. Among the latest is that of an underground nuclear explosion.

Electric power generation is being stepped up year by year to keep abreast of the growing demand not only by domestic users, but industry as well. The generating capacity of all plants in the province is approximately 1,092,000 kilowatts. Scheduled increases will bring the total to 1,742,500 kilowatts by the end of 1967.

*Edmonton is the Capital of Alberta.*







*Aerial view of the City of Calgary.*

Three privately owned utilities provide the main sources of hydro-electric power in Alberta, while some towns and cities operate their own steam-powered plants.

Ten cities, located effectively throughout the province, are the keystones on which the economic and social system are built. There are 91 towns of varying sizes and 158 villages. Most communities are modern with water and sewer systems, many with paved streets, and with fine housing and shopping facilities. Local taxation is modest, encouraging industry and development of local resources.

Edmonton, provincial capital, leads the metropolitan areas in population with approximately 349,000 persons. Other centres and their approximate population are: Calgary, 290,000; Lethbridge, 36,000; Medicine Hat, 25,000; Red Deer, 21,000; Grande Prairie, 9,100; Camrose, 7,000; Wetaskiwin, 5,300; Lloydminster, 2,900 (Alberta); and Drumheller, 2,931.

The province's education system is noted for its progressiveness. Entrance to the lowest grade of the pri-

mary school is the doorway to the corridor which has university graduation at its other end. Whether the pupil completes the whole cycle depends upon his ability, his circumstances, his ambition, and the profession or vocation he aspires to follow. In any event, secondary education leading to qualification for university entrance is within reach of all and without cost to the pupil except for the purchase of textbooks. A system of grants, loans, bursaries and fellowships also assures that a deserving student will not be denied a university education because of lack of funds.

The centralization of education enables the province to provide its growing population with the best in instructional facilities. Each day more than 2,000 school buses carry 67,000 pupils to more than 8,000 classrooms.

Alberta's health services are outstanding too. A government hospitalization program at a modest daily individual co-insurance cost is available to all residents. Many cost-free special services are available, such as those for polio, cancer and other diseases. The newly instituted Al-





*The latest addition to the University of Alberta's Edmonton campus is the new Education building shown here while still being completed, but now occupied and in full use. Other buildings being completed in 1963 include students residences and a central food services building.*

Alberta Medical Plan was inaugurated by the provincial government to ensure that Alberta residents have access to low cost prepaid coverage for medical care. A comprehensive welfare programme is also in operation and is recognized for its progressiveness in the care and pensioning of handicapped residents. The provincial Homes for the Aged program is providing pleasant homes in attractive surroundings for aged residents at a reasonable cost, and of the 50 homes which were scheduled to be built by 1964, 43 are already operating and three more are almost completed. A comprehensive welfare program is recognized for its progressiveness in the care and pensioning of handicapped residents.

The main methods of travel in Alberta are by automobile, bus, train and air. Regular service is provided by three large airlines to other parts of Canada, the United States, Europe, and the Orient. In addition, smaller companies offer both passenger and freight service within the province. The trans-continental railways pass through Alberta, while branch lines cover most districts. With its 90,497 miles of highways, of which some

3,663 are paved, automobile traffic is a popular mode of travel, particularly where great distances exist between towns and cities. At the present time there is a motor vehicle for every 2.6 persons, or a passenger car for every 1.1 families.

Alberta, with the rest of Canada, is well equipped with every type of communication — postal, telegraph, telephone and radio. There are 17 privately owned radio broadcasting stations and eight television stations.

There is plenty of opportunity for the occupation of leisure time in Alberta. Main sports include hockey, curling, baseball, football and golf, while other pastimes are western rodeos, hunting, fishing and skating. Many awards have been won in national and international sports circles by Alberta teams.

The province has long been famous as a tourist area with the beautiful Canadian Rockies and hundreds of other attractions beckoning visitors from all parts of the globe. Alberta is blessed with a beautiful and fertile land, a happy people, and an enviable reputation in the fields of agriculture, industry, sportsmanship, and "western hospitality".





*Oil has long been known to exist under Alberta soils, and derricks such as this were used during the early days of oil development in the Turner Valley field. Today, modern steel derricks of a portable type, such as shown below, dot the Alberta landscape as oil firms seek new deposits in all districts of the province.*

